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SPORTS
NEWMAN SPEEDS AWAY FROM STEWART IN N.H.
 + NORTHERN IRELAND'S CLARKE WINS BRITISH OPEN

VOLUME 280
 NUMBER 18
 \$1.00
 ISSN 0895-0771

The Boston Globe

A BOOM IN NATION
 From: 11:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.
 High 71°F, Low 47°F
 Forecast: Partly cloudy, clearing
 High 68°F, Low 44°F
 Boston: 7:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.
 Newsroom: 7:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.
 Print: Boston, Mass. 02108

MONDAY, JULY 18, 2011

In the news

President Obama will bypass Harvard Law professor Elizabeth Warren and nominate former Ohio attorney general Eric Holder to lead the new consumer finance watchdog. Warren would have faced a tough confirmation battle. **A2**

Scotland Yard's chief stepped down and police arrested the top UK bank's former head of Robert Mundell's media operations in Britain, as a phone tapping scandal unfolded. **A3**

A close advisor to President Barack Obama was slain in Afghanistan on July 11 after Obama's half brother was killed by a missile. **A5**

Lawyers raise questions of privacy rights as the use of facial recognition technology spreads among sheriff's departments across the state. **B1**

Syria flow troops to an eastern border town where rebels had defected and joined the government, against President Bashar Assad. **A6**

State records show 13 five-work-week injuries since July 2 since a bus in Foxborough was overturned by a quarter. **B1**

An MIT team is developing remotely controlled aircraft that use a pair of balloons that can stream video of otherwise inaccessible locations. **B5**

The Los Angeles freeway reopened a day ahead of schedule. Its reopening was planned without the specific traffic jams that usually had formed. **A2**

China accused the United States of interfering in its affairs after President Obama met with the Dalai Lama. **A3**

18 Wayne men connected with his fans with commercial fans and men take out at the Comcast Center. **B12**

Have a news tip? E-mail news@globe.com or call 617-929-0950 (ext. 77). Other news tips are welcome. **B2**

POINT OF VIEW: ISRAELI CAPTIVITY
 "Israel has its enemies, including many who deny its basic right to exist at all. But among Israelis — and among Israelis' well-wishers here — there is concern about an increasingly intemperate right-wing government that sees only military as every effort to break the status quo." **A9**

Inside Features Classified
 Boston 85-7
 Sports 88-10
 Education 68
 Lifestyle 82
 Real Estate 811
 Classified 89
 P. 11 (Sports, Comics, Lifestyle)
 P. 12 (Sports, Real Estate, Classified)

The Publishing Group, Inc. 100
 State Street, Boston, MA 02109
 boston.com
 0 9 1 3 5

NO CELEBRATION FOR THE AMERICANS



The US team had a muted moment in Frankfurt yesterday after failing to Japan in the Women's World Cup final. Japan, playing for its first major soccer title, won 3-1 on penalty kicks after coming from behind twice in a 2-2 tie. The win was a boost for a nation still recovering from an earthquake and tsunami. **B1, B3, C1**

State seeks delay in utility merger

Monthlong review could stall NStar deal

By Erin Ailsworth
 The merger administration is seeking to delay approval of the merger between Boston's NStar and Connecticut-based Northeast Utilities until at least next year — a move that, if successful, could

unravel the deal to create one of the nation's largest utility companies. The administration, through the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, last week filed a request with state utility regulators to put off action on the merger with NStar, completion a formal review of its rates, which could begin as early as May but could take several months. That means regulators may not be able to take up the case again until late next year, well beyond the April 2012 date the utilities originally set to

reason the deal if regulatory approvals were not in place by then. Governor DeWine, an NStar spokesman, said yesterday that such a "substantial delay" could ultimately jeopardize the deal. "It's unfortunate because this seems increasingly with the state's interests."

Stalemate persists over raising debt limit

By Deborah Shick
 WASHINGTON — The debate over how to raise the country's legal borrowing limit continued to bog the nation's capital yesterday as White House officials put the issue for a final squabble on a Congress that remains largely divided just 15 days before the administration says the country will run out of money. The House Budget Committee, led by Rep. Paul Ryan, said the president has put everything on the table and it is now up to Congress to reach consensus on an acceptable plan. "Leadership takes partnership as well," Ryan said on ABC's "This Week with Christiane Amanpour." "The president has shown a willingness to go there. We need a partner to work with."

Unwilling to give up their vigil



St. James the Great parishioners held their weekly prayer service yesterday in Wellesley. The church is among those the archdiocese has decided to sell.

Parishioners of 6 churches told to close will begin appeals today

By Lauren J. Nelson
 SITUATE — The girls dragged across the altar of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church offer an image of peace, a close with their hands in prayer, even into it is a message of defiance: "Sixth Year Anniversary in Vigil." The girls, then 60 in Francis will the many of an unaltered congregation that has left a protest vigil near the archdiocese of Boston closed the parish and renamed its priest in 2004. The congregation is pushing a girls to reach the roof of the church, a 20-year-old building, to pray for their side. Today, all six churches plan to send letters to O'Malley, asking for an appeals process expected within two to three years. U.S. Justice is backed down by the Vatican, canon law dictates that the archdiocese cannot sell the

A vision of South Station as indoor park

By Andrew Ryan
 After an all night train trip, Reina M. DuVal arrived in Boston last week tired, hungry, and eager for fresh air. But a weekly bike-kayak concert organized DuVal as she rolled her suitcase across the red-tiled floor of South Station's bustling concourse.

A professional musician in a tuxedo played a solo set at a grand piano, his repertoire ranging from Mozart to John Denver, while the amateur radio-band flanked an update for the 100-year-old South Station. Imagine a South Station with live music almost every day, along with performances by

a whole outdoor restaurant, all while 100,000 people a day rush or commutes wait — to catch a train or bus. That is the new vision of South Station. The company that holds a 30-year lease for the commercial space at South Station. The firm hopes to reimagine the grand concourse and entire

Review ordered of liquor agency

Mass. treasurer seeks audit after state pays \$1.7m to settle cases

By Todd Waldorf
 The Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission has spent an amount nearly equal to its annual budget in the past few years to resolve a trio of employment cases involving harassment, discrimination, and retaliation, according to interviews and documents obtained by the Globe through public records requests. The cases — two settlements and a court judgment — stem from complaints filed by former workers and a prospective employee over the past decade. In one case, settled in 2009, the agency presented a novel defense to a claimant who had safely drawn a 57-year-old retirement plan. The defense: The two possible jobs had to go to relatives of lawmakers or the legislature would not fund the positions, according to legal documents. Following the Globe's questions about the payment, state Treasurer Steven Tarricone, who oversees the agency, asked the Massachusetts Inspector General's office to conduct a "top-to-bottom" review of the agency. He said he will also hire an independent consultant to conduct a compensation audit. "While it does happen on any watch, I recognize that something that goes on has the ability to put a cloud over your operations," said Governor, who took office in January. "The goal is to get pay fixed and that it never

SETTLEMENTS, Page A6

Plumier Bruce Lem is given his weekly performance at South Station last week



Operations look to add more cultural events.

The Boston Globe

A vision of South Station as indoor park



Pianist Bruce Lewis gave his weekly performance at South Station last week. Operators look to add more cultural events. (David L. Ryan/
Globe Staff)

By Andrew Ryan
Globe Staff / July 18, 2011

After an all-night train trip, Reina M. DuVal arrived in Boston last week tired, hungry, and eager for fresh air. But a weekly lunchtime concert captivated DuVal as she rolled her suitcase across the scuffed floor of South Station's bustling grand concourse.

A professional musician in a tuxedo played a solo set at a grand piano, his repertoire ranging from Mozart to John Denver, while the massive schedule board flashed an update for the 1 p.m. to Framingham.

Imagine a South Station with live music almost every day, along with performances by theater troupes, art exhibits, and a white-tablecloth restaurant, all while 100,000 people a day rush - or sometimes wait - to catch a train or bus.

That is the new vision of Equity Office, the company that holds a 30-year lease for the commercial space in South Station. The firm hopes to invigorate the grand concourse and entice people like DuVal to linger and spend money.

"We looked at it and said this is one of the best indoor spaces in Boston," said John Conley, vice president of asset management for Equity Office. "But the station is underutilized. We asked how could we take this terrific space and really enliven it."

It may have been the calming composition by Chopin or the playful rhythm of ragtime, but last week's lunchtime concert by pianist Bruce Lewis demonstrated that performances have the potential to make South Station more of a destination and less of a turnstile.

Dozens of people were fixed in place, seemingly oblivious to the departing trains. They sat in 50 folding chairs set up for the event: A man in a light-colored business suit with a newspaper stuffed in his briefcase; a 20-something traveler with tattoos who ate stir-fried broccoli from a Styrofoam container; and a middle-aged woman tapping her foot in time with Scott Joplin's Peacherine Rag.

"I got in at 11:06 [a.m.], and I'm still here," said DuVal, 61, the overnight traveler from Virginia who had been camped at a table for two hours. "I was going to go to lunch somewhere, but instead I [got a salad at Cosi] and stayed."

Equity Office had previously used an in-house marketer to oversee its long-running summer lunchtime concert series and other events. But recently the firm hired Daniel A. Biederman, a New York City park consultant who helped pull Manhattan's Bryant Park back from the brink of urban decay in the 1990s.

Though he offered no concrete plans for South Station, Biederman spoke of the 40,000-square-foot grand concourse as an indoor park flush with potential for events and intriguing experiences to promote products and entertain commuters, as early as this fall.

"In South Station, you have 365 days of good weather," said Biederman. "Parks in the Northeast get 100 days of good weather.

Biederman caused a stir last year when the Friends of the Public Garden hired him to raise money for Boston Common in part by seeking commercial sponsors. In Bryant Park, he has used corporate money to fund improvements and pay for programming.

While no blockbuster deals have been announced for Boston Common, Coca-Cola will pay a substantial amount of a money to sponsor a baseball clinic by Red Sox players for children, said Elizabeth Vizza, executive director of Friends of the Public Garden.

"It's been a long cultivation process, and Dan would admit as much," said Vizza, adding that the group hopes to secure more corporate money for the improvements near the Brewer Fountain, slated to be complete by October.

Biederman's company has also been hired recently by The Esplanade Association, the nonprofit that advocates for the 3-mile, state-owned park along the Charles River. That association also plans to use his corporate contacts to raise money.

"Some people think these public spaces are being privatized; I don't think that's the case at all," said Sylvia Salas, the association's executive director, who pointed out that nonprofits have long relied on private companies.

Built in the 1890s, South Station may be a public space, but it is no stranger to corporate logos. Enormous banners advertising Mohegan Sun casino hang from the rafters, and a dozen fast-food restaurants serve commuters.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, which owns South Station, said it favors the effort to enliven the space, within reason.

“Transportation use must take priority,” said Mark Boyle, the MBTA’s assistant general manager for development. “There needs to be sufficient room for commuters to pass. In terms of audio, the announcements for train service take priority, as well. But it’s just common sense.”

Those restrictions would still allow actors from the Lion King or Blue Man Group, for example, to stage performances to promote their shows in the Theater District, said Ted Furst, Boston project manager for Biederman Redevelopment Ventures Corp.

Even a performance as simple as last week’s piano music was a powerful draw.

“People who are sitting there have been there for a while,” said Cindy Scolamiero, traveling from Exeter, N.H., to look for work in Boston. “It lightens your mood. Even if you are in a rush, you rush by and smile.”

Andrew Ryan can be reached at acryan@globe.com Follow him on Twitter@GlobeAndrewRyan. ■